

# The Monk Chronicles

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Dear Family and Friends,

Where does the time go? Can you believe that 2008 is practically gone?

Our big news for this year is that Andy graduated from high school and we sent him off to BYU. And with that, we took our first family vacation in at least six years.

In August, we loaded Andy, Ricky and Michelle into the car and drove to Lubbock, Texas, where we were joined by Suzie who flew there to meet us. We then spent four enjoyable days renewing friendships and seeing some of the places we used to visit. The next leg of our trip was to drive to Utah where we spent a little over a week visiting our family. It had been nearly six years since we had been there as a family. Needless to say, we spent a lot of time getting reacquainted and we had a wonderful time doing it.



We left Utah and drove back to Connecticut (we did it in two long days), arriving just in time for Ricky and Michelle to start school on August 25. The only bad thing about our vacation was that we had to leave Suzie and Andy in Utah! Suzie had been in Utah all summer, so it was nice to spend time with her, but our time together was over too soon and leaving her and Andy there was difficult.

Suzie is now a junior at BYU and Andy's a freshman. The funny thing is that Ricky's also a junior and Michelle's also a freshman—in high school. They're all doing well. Suzie is majoring in Civil Engineering and Andy's official major is Music Performance, though he'll likely change to Computer Engineering later. Ricky and Michelle have continued their music activities: Ricky's playing cello and Michelle plays violin. They both play piano and are members of Norwalk Youth Symphony's Principal Orchestra.

Speaking of NYS, Andy was the featured soloist at the NYS Mother's Day concert. He performed the third movement of Mendelssohn's violin concerto. There's a recording of the performance online: Just go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for "Mendelssohn violin concerto, Monk".

We're all doing well and we hope that you are too. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Please keep in touch.

Richard, Ann, Suzie, Andy, Ricky and Michelle